

## Amusements and Meetings To-night.

BOJOS OPERA HOUSE—"Olivette."  
 BOJOS THEATRE—"The Cabin."  
 HAVERTY'S FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—"The Bohemian Girl."  
 HAVERTY'S 14TH STREET THEATRE—"Widow Bodoll."  
 HAVERTY'S NIBLO'S GARDEN—"Black Venus."  
 MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—"Hazel Kirke."  
 PARK THEATRE—"Olivette."  
 SAN FRANCISCO MINISTERS.  
 STANDARD THEATRE—"Bramy."  
 UNION LEAGUE THEATRE—"The Merchant of Venice."  
 UNION SQUARE THEATRE—"The Creole."  
 WALLACE'S THEATRE—"The Gypsy."  
 RICKLE'S MUSEUM.  
 CHICKERING HALL—Lecture.  
 KOSTER & BIAL'S Concert.  
 MANHATTAN YACHT ASSOCIATION RINK—Skating.  
 METROPOLITAN CONCERT HALL—Roller skating.  
 NEW-YORK AQUARIUM—Circus.

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## Business Notices.

"ALDERNEY BRAND" COUNTERFEIT MILK.  
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## New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1881.

## THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The German Crown Prince Frederick William has spoken strongly against the anti-Jewish movement; the Bavarian Minister of the Interior has instructed the police to oppose the movement. The Spanish Minister of the Colonies announces that Cuba is entirely at peace. Turkey proposes that a conference be held on the Greek question.

DOMESTIC.—Five persons were murdered recently by the Indians near Fort Cummings, New-Mexico. Henry Watterson has expressed his opinions on current politics. Professor William Chaney Fowler, LL.D., died at Durham, Conn., Saturday night. The Senatorial canvass has been renewed with great vigor at Harrisburg. Senator Allison is to visit General Garfield at Mentor to-day. Governor Hawkins will probably be elected United States Senator in Tennessee. Snow slides have caused losses at Alta, Utah. A fire destroyed considerable property at Durham, N. C., Saturday.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The boiler under the sidewalk in Eleventh-st., at Broadway, exploded yesterday and damaged James McCreary & Co.'s store. A temperance meeting was held in the Church of the Covenant. Mr. Beecher preached about Sunday. Mr. Talmage referred to his recent affliction. Several meetings of the Irish Land League were held in this city and Brooklyn.

THE WEATHER.—THURSDAY local observations indicate cloudy and partly cloudy weather, with higher temperature and slight chances of light snow or rain. Thermometer yesterday: Highest, 27°; lowest, 13°; average, 21°.

Mother Shipton must have been right. The fashionable milliners may as well begin to advertise ascension robes. Persons owning real estate will be wise to sell, and buy securities capable of aerial transportation. Politicians will no doubt make ready to resign their offices in a body July 1. The end of all earthly things must be very near. The ice companies admit that there has been a splendid harvest of ice, and express the belief that the price will be low.

George Eliot's constitutional reserve was so great that such a letter as that we print elsewhere, in which she took a friend into her confidence respecting the supposed origin of one of her most famous characters, must have been a rare concession to the outside world. The great authoress who had an invincible aversion to being photographed and written about, may be said to have drawn her own portrait in some of the little touches of this letter; as, for instance, where she says that Dinah Morris's prayers and exhortations, instead of being copied from a character she had known in real life, "were written with hot tears, as they surged up in my own mind." If her biography should ever be written, this letter would find a place in it.

Three youthful burglars, eleven and twelve years of age, have been arrested, and the painful discovery is made that the whole band, which includes two members not yet arrested, is composed of newboys. This is a sorrowful stigma to be cast upon a highly respectable profession. The newboy's grammar may not be good, and he is perhaps robust in his speech to a fault, but he works for his living—which is more than can be said of many more prosperous members of the community—and he pays his way, which in a world of deadbeats would not always be a safe remark, even in the obituary columns of the newspapers. If some way can be devised to vindicate the fraternity, by unfrocking these unworthy members—or perhaps unshirring would be the more correct term—steps should be taken to that end, whatever the action of the extra-professional authorities may be.

Speaker Randall has declined early and late in the House respecting the crime of double interest upon Government bonds. The effect of an amendment which he has put upon the Refunding bill will be to give the holders of \$200,000,000 of six per cent bonds interest for thirty days, which they are not now entitled to receive. In other words, Mr. Randall has done his best to present these bondholders with \$1,000,000 which belongs to the Government. When was it that there was a member in the House from Pennsylvania by the name of Randall, who used to have a good deal to say of "retrenchment"? If this is a sample of Mr. Randall's statesmanship, that

far-reaching campaign for the Presidency which began at Cincinnati with a complimentary vote the morning Hancock was nominated, would need to last a long while, if it were not that the Democratic party nominates statesmen for the Presidency only occasionally and by accident.

THE TRIBUNE's recent warning of the danger of boiler explosions in business houses and other establishments where elevators and other machinery are run, has been reinforced in a striking manner. Yesterday the sidewalk in front of a well-known Broadway store was suddenly lifted into the air, ripping open a gap directly before the store fifteen feet wide. Great iron beams were flung into the middle of the street, and there was a great shower of bricks with a prodigious smashing of glass. There is no explanation yet of the cause of the explosion, except, perhaps, that of carelessness on the part of the engineers in making their preparations for leaving the previous night. Twenty-four hours before, such an explosion at one of the most crowded spots of Broadway must inevitably have caused a considerable loss of life. It is true that the explosion might have been less likely to happen twenty-four hours before, when the men were in charge, but the possibility of it is, unhappily, clearly demonstrated. Many of the big boilers in business establishments are carelessly managed, and are not properly inspected. This may not be true of this particular instance, but such boilers constitute a danger to public safety, which needs greater attention from the authorities.

## THE DEMOCRATS AND REFUNDING.

All the votes in the House thus far indicate that the combination of jobbers and repudiators will probably prevail to-morrow, or whenever final action on the Refunding bill may be taken. Fine words and soft phrases ought not to blind a single member to the real nature of this combination. Seventy Democrats have voted to subject the bonds of the United States to taxation, regardless of pledges of the public faith. Others have voted to force public creditors to take depreciated silver or paper in payment of bonds, and others still, to pay out and scatter the fund now held, in accordance with a solemn pledge of the public faith, for the redemption of notes on demand. It is a waste of time to search for any euphonious phrase to fit these men; they not only are repudiators, but appear to be proud of it. Besides these, there is another class of members who have purely speculative ends to serve. The world does not know, nor does it greatly care, whether they have a corrupt share in the speculations which they serve, so long as they act precisely as they would if every vote and speech were dictated by the "bull" pool of stock and bond operators in Wall Street. Day after day, for weeks, personal assurances from Mr. Wood, or Mr. Randall, or other Democratic leaders in the House, that the Three Per Cent bill would be passed surely and quickly by that body, have been passed about in Wall Street to encourage the speculators for an advance, and have had the desired effect. If the members of Congress who are loudest in denouncing "the money power" are not its conscious and willing agents, they ought at once to bring actions against themselves for defamation of character.

These two classes are kept together by Democratic partisan necessities. In order to make a false pretense of anxiety to fund the debt at the lowest possible rate of interest, the Democratic Speaker and Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means take the lead in resisting every amendment by which actual refunding of the debt might be rendered possible. Some bankers who hold five and six per cent bonds, on which they want the interest to continue, applaud heartily. Some great speculators, who care not a brass farthing for the honor or welfare of the country, provided they can unload a large lot of securities at high prices, also applaud heartily. Disloyalists and repudiators, whose main desire is to break the public credit, chuckle at the prospect that a loan will be offered which capital will not touch, and that the United States will be left with no provision for the bonds of 1881.

On Saturday another minor feature of great importance to those who want refunding to fail was adopted by the majority. It allows only one quarter of 1 per cent for all the expenses of manufacturing and otherwise preparing, issuing, advertising and selling the bonds and certificates. It was shown, before the vote was taken, that the mere mechanical work would cost more than the rate allowed, so that the Treasury would be left entirely without means for bringing the bonds to the notice of the people, or for inducing any persons to act as its agents in the sale. Any member who wanted refunding to succeed would naturally have voted for a higher allowance. The majority did not want refunding to succeed, and therefore naturally voted for the inadequate allowance named. The bank clause was then reached. Mr. Hutchins, whose recent associations as a Democratic member have not entirely incapacitated him for seeing or speaking the truth, showed that there was great danger of a sharp and disastrous contraction of the currency if the bill should be passed; "the House was playing around a powder magazine with matches." But Mr. Wood at once appealed to communistic and partisan prejudices, and appeared to have enough Democratic supporters to prevail.

The speculative end of the combination would be as well suited, or even better, if the bill could be passed with provisions to save the banks from harmful effect. But the repudiating and bank-hating end of the combination would not vote for the bill, if it should be so amended, and its defeat in the House would not please the jobbers. The common excuse now given for supporting this measure, with all its mischievous features, is that the Senate may cut its claws and draw its teeth. But that is no reason for disturbing the public credit; no reason for indicting upon the country weeks of apprehension before final action in the Senate can be reached. The passage of a dangerous measure by the House, after it had been treated so conspicuously as a party measure, would create a natural and strong presumption that the Senate, being controlled by the same party, would substantially concur. That impression would be produced abroad as well as at home. Wherever there are sensible business men, it would be seen that a disastrous monetary disturbance might follow the passage of such a bill. The immediate effect upon all new undertakings and investments in American enterprises or securities, would be likely to be very unfavorable. Large sales of bonds and stocks in this market by foreign holders have, in fact, begun already, in part because disturbance is feared, and in part because present prices invite realizations. But a selling movement might be so accelerated, and become so enormous, as to bring about exhaus-

tion of reserves and general disaster. Nor should it be forgotten that the banks, which held over \$200,000,000 of the bonds to be redeemed, may at any time begin to anticipate the passage of a dangerous bill by selling their bonds and retiring their circulation. It is more than likely that such a step would not be deferred until the bill had passed both houses. In short, while this House never has shown either the disposition or the power to do any good, it certainly has a great deal of power for mischief.

## CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

There appear to be two parties engaged in the mid agitation of what is called Civil Service Reform now in progress and gently simmering at Washington. Of these two the Democrats, who are devoting to it so much of energy as the November defeat has left them, have the advantage of knowing definitely what they want. Their aim, which they scarcely pretend to disguise, is a partisan one. What they desire to do is to disable what they conceive to be one of the sources of strength to the opposition. They want to "reform" the public service, not so much from devotion to the interests of the service as from the hope of crippling their opponents. Their complaint is not that the public officials are incompetent, unfaithful or inefficient, but that they contribute, either voluntarily or under levy of assessments, to the funds required to keep Republicans in and Democrats out of office. Their zeal for a reform of the service is chiefly due to anxiety to spike the enemy's guns. Hence the bill introduced by Senator Pendleton forbidding under heavy penalties any contribution, voluntary or otherwise, to any fund for political purposes. THE TRIBUNE has heretofore directed attention to the fact that wherever Democrats have the power they are in the habit of assessing their officeholders and candidates for office to the point of unblushing extortion. In this city the application of the rule of assessments upon candidates and holders of office is notorious. But no one ever hears of any proposition to introduce and apply the principle of Mr. Pendleton's bill here or anywhere else where the Democrats are in control and the assessments inure to the benefit of that party. The proposed reform may be wise, but the unwillingness of Democrats to apply it to themselves is liable to cast a doubt upon their sincerity. Still, they must be credited with knowing precisely what they are driving at.

The idealists who are pursuing the matter, on the other hand, while they are undoubtedly sincere, labor under the disadvantage of not knowing precisely what they want nor how to get at it if they did. Their chief anxiety seems to be to establish a system of competitive examinations, retrospective in its operation, to which all subordinate officials in the service holding their places by appointment shall be subjected. Most of these gentlemen are reformers by profession, and they are engaged in the present movement in pursuance of what they believe to be their mission. They must be reforming something. There is always some public abuse that they must be whacking at with the great cure-all of the "Be-it-enacted." But are there any such abuses in the public service as at present organized and conducted as call for the sweeping overthrow involved in their scheme? Is not the service at the present time reasonably free from irregularities and scandals? Certainly at no time in the history of the Government has it been conducted so honestly and faithfully, with so small a percentage of loss and so greatly to the satisfaction of the public. Does any one suppose that this condition of affairs would be improved by vacating all the places and throwing them open to the test of competitive examination? How would it promote the efficiency of a service against which no complaint of unfaithfulness is made? How promote honesty, when it is confessedly more honestly administered than ever before? Competitive examinations such as these gentlemen wish to establish would furnish no test of a candidate's honesty or fidelity, and these are the most essential requirements. They are proved only by experience, and to that test the officials now in place have been subjected.

That the public service is capable of improvement we do not for a moment doubt. No one claims that it is perfect. But we are very clearly of the opinion that any such sweeping measure as that which proposes a retroactive system of competitive examinations would work infinite mischief, while the Democratic proposition to forbid political contributions from Government officials would be, if not impossible of enforcement, simply a partisan manoeuvre to help Democrats to power, which once secured, they would immediately abandon the reform and fall into their old practices. Legislation is after all but a weak device. No law can ever make pure and honest the administration of the public service by a base and dishonest party. The party that in the large is patriotic and honest, that comprises the intelligence, morality and respectability of the people, and that as a rule recognizes and defers to the sentiments of purity and honor in the people, is much more likely to administer its trust honestly without the restraints of law, than a tricky and dishonest party under the most rigorous and minute restrictions. The price of a pure and efficient public service is the same as of liberty—constant vigilance. No law, no system will make up for the want or do away with the necessity for it. Given an honest and patriotic party administering the Government, and you have honest and faithful service, whatever the system. Given a dishonest party in power, and you have dishonesty, waste and incompetency, no matter what the system of appointments or the limitations of law.

## SPECULATIVE ACTIVITY.

The past week was one of amazing speculative activity in the Stock Exchange, of moderate increase of speculation in other merchandise than breadstuffs, and of a considerable increase in the volume of transactions for actual consumption or export. The exchanges at New-York were \$1,179,899,303, again the largest ever recorded, though exceeding those of the previous week by only \$20,316. It very rarely happens that the records of two successive weeks are so nearly the same, but the character of business represented was very different. The returns of the first week in January represented unprecedented annual and quarterly payments on account of investments, as well as the settlement of business accounts of a year of unprecedented activity. The returns of the second week include much smaller payments of that nature, and probably represent smaller commercial transactions, for the weather greatly embarrassed and delayed deliveries of merchandise. But they certainly include much larger payments on account of stock speculation. The sales of stocks last week, the largest ever known we believe, amounted to

3,455,701 shares, and the market value was no far from \$270,000,000. The exchanges not arising from this vast speculation were probably about \$640,000,000, against about \$780,000,000 the previous week.

Many things have stimulated speculative activity. The arrangement between the telegraph companies caused transactions amounting to over \$51,000,000 in Western Union alone. Reports of the business of railroads in 1880 kept coming in, and nearly all were highly encouraging. The Chronicle of Saturday reports earnings of forty-four railroads for the year, and not one of them shows a decrease of earnings in comparison with the previous year. The aggregate is \$193,036,245 in 1880, against \$152,056,126 in 1879, an increase of \$40,980,119, or 26.96 per cent. Reports of special dividends, of new and advantageous arrangements, of termination of the existing strife in the Southwest and of mediated leases or guarantees, helped to stimulate the excitement. Moreover, the votes in the House in favor of three per cent funding bonds had precisely the effect chiefly desired by the speculators who have promoted that movement; the thoughtless or ill-informed people about the Street were led to believe that \$600,000,000 of capital was about to be disclosed in some mysterious way from the five and six per cent loans; that a great part of it would be sent into the market for the purchase of railroad securities, and that three per cent would be established as the best rate obtainable for money in Government loans. It is not necessary here to point out how little probability there is that a three per cent bill will pass, or how absurd it is to expect such results from its passage, if it should pass. The three per cent clique reaped a fine harvest in the advance of prices, with reason or without reason.

The condition of the banks and of the money market favored large business of all kinds. At last a real and considerable return of money to this centre appears, the banks having gained \$3,513,000 in specie and \$1,868,700 in legal tenders, while the Treasury balances declined during the week only \$1,308,645 in specie, and gained \$137,140 in currency. As there were no arrivals of foreign gold during the week, while the gold depositary of the Associated Banks received \$2,500,000 during the week, it is evident that considerable sums have arrived from the interior. The principal banks report shipments of \$550,000 currency, and receipts of \$2,409,300, which fully accounts for the gain in reported average. The statement of Saturday, too, was made upon rising averages, and there is not now within sight anything to arrest the return of money hitherward for some weeks to come. Still, the transactions in the Stock Exchange were so large, and involved so great a shifting in loans, that, after a week of comparative ease, the money market worked rather closely on Saturday, and a few loans were made at a premium.

The advance in rate by the Bank of England from 3 to 3½ per cent was not a surprise, for the shipment of £388,000 on the 7th inst. and £100,000 on the 10th led every one to expect that the bank would resist. Its reserves are now only \$117,513,000. According to *The Economist* of Saturday, the effect upon speculation in London was plainly visible; "the extraordinary rise in solid investments appears to be arrested," though before the change of rate "gambling in stock in default had assumed enormous proportions." But no corresponding pause of speculation appeared in this market, for the belief is quite general that money will be easy here for some time to come, whatever happens abroad. The Bank of France sustained a further loss of \$1,420,000 in specie, of which \$899,000 was in gold. If the securities recently purchased here should begin to come back as rapidly as they went out, on account of pressure in foreign money markets or the passage by Congress of measures threatening disaster here, the expected ease in the New-York money market might not continue long. But there is no reason at present to fear that the mischief-makers in Congress will succeed in doing anything. The solitary virtue of that remarkable body is its talent for getting nothing done.

## THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC.

The reputation of THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC is so well established throughout the United States that it has been in order to command a large sale. It is always the first in the field, for the simple reason that the other political register can be published only after the information has been collected and compiled by THE TRIBUNE and thus placed in the hands of other publishers. It is not a year's work; it is distinctively national in its scope; and has come to be regarded by politicians, legislators and business men generally as the most complete and satisfactory reference book of the year. The announcement in the daily files that the publication of another issue was close at hand has filled our letter-box with orders for a week past, and brought a throng of anxious inquirers to our counting-room.

THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC FOR 1881 has been compiled on the same general plan adopted in past years. Owing to the importance of the Presidential contest the bulk of the volume is taken up by election returns from every State and Territory. The vote of every county in the Union cast in the recent general election is compared with the Presidential vote of 1876, and in three States—Connecticut, New-York and New-Jersey—the comparison is made by towns and wards. The Congressional vote of 1880 is compared with that of 1878 in every district, and the returns for the local election are given more in detail than they have been in recent issues of THE ALMANAC. The collection of this vast body of statistics from every quarter of the Union is an undertaking of the first magnitude; and as official returns are generally printed hastily in local journals, with inadequate proof-reading, every column of figures has to be carefully revised, in order that absolute accuracy may be secured. The Hon. Edward McPherson, who edits THE ALMANAC, has devoted more time and painstaking labor to the volume this year than he has ever done before, arduous as his work has been in the past; and the fact that he is satisfied with the results will be a convincing proof, to all who are familiar with his statistical ability, that the current issue is free from errors. Accuracy, it must be borne in mind, is the one quality which a political hand-book of national reputation—one that is referred to alike by members of all political parties—must have. The tradition runs that Mr. Greeley used to shed tears—and sometimes more than that—when an error was pointed out in THE ALMANAC. It is a tradition which we trust will always be loyally remembered in this office.

Besides the general election intelligence, THE ALMANAC contains all the special features which old readers will recognize—such as the digest of public laws, party platforms and Constitutional amendments in the States, the elections of United States Senators held prior to January 1, the Congressional, diplomatic and civil lists, tables of appropriations, expenditures, revenues, coinage, internal revenue, public debt, banks and currency and similar financial exhibits, together with commercial and trade statistics relating to exports, imports, immigration, shipbuilding, railways, silk industry, etc. One of the most striking tables in the book is that showing the popular vote for President from 1872 to 1880 inclusive, including the Greenback and Prohibition votes. The census statistics give the population of sixty-four cities, the population of New-York,

Boston, Brooklyn and Philadelphia by wards, and the approximate statement of the population of the States and Territories.

THE ALMANAC is now ready for delivery in the counting-room, or will be sent post-paid to any address for 25 cents. A very large edition has been printed and all orders will receive prompt attention.

This winter's crop of Senators is considerably above the average.

General Hancock should have sent another "glorious" dispatch to Governor Plaisted, of Maine, when he was inaugurated.

Mr. Barnum's effort to get behind one of his clerks is too ridiculous to deceive a tyrant in politics. He can't even get his head out of sight. A London cabby seeing a very small man wearing a very large hat called out: "Hi, there! Come out of that hat! I know you in it, 'cos I see yer feet!" Mr. Barnum's footprints in the Morey business are too visible to admit of his deluding the people. So he had better give up his attempt to hide, own up and stop trying to plead the baby act.

When a Louisiana liar drops into Washington it makes Ben Hill feel as frisky as a plumber in a cold sweat.

If there is much more talent transferred from the House to the Senate, the Capitol at Washington will be in danger of tipping up.

Mr. Bergh will have to take General Garfield in hand. In causing the Democrats so much anguish he is laying himself liable to the law against cruelty to animals.

Says a Democratic paper: "It is settled that John Sherman will be the next Senator from Ohio, but there is no enthusiasm in his behalf." The satisfaction of the people with the knowledge that Mr. Sherman will be elected to the Senate is of too solid a character to call for a blowing of horns or a beating of tin snare.

If a majority elected in every State in the Union there would be now twenty-six Republican Governors. At it, there are only twenty; while seventeen are Democrats and one is a Fusionist.

Some one advertises for "an experienced and educated writer, capable of vividly portraying with occasional pathos and humor, from material which will be furnished him, scenes of actual life embracing many grades of society." The suspicion at once arises that the history of the late Democratic campaign is to be compiled. It will need unusual capacity to portray the pathos that struck that party immediately after the Indiana election. The only figure of speech that will adequately describe it is the famous one of Dr. Leonard Bacon: "It came down on them like a ton of soap." As for the humorous part of the campaign the people have had their fill of it. If the book is embellished with a fac-simile of Barnum's seven miles, and a spirit photograph of H. L. Morey, it will doubtless sell well, and help liquidate some of the party's unpaid bills.

The Democratic organs display a great deal of animosity to college presidents taking part in political campaigns. Let's see, how many college presidents came out for Hancock?

If the Democrats could only find a small rent in the Republican party in which to insert the thin end of a wedge they wouldn't feel quite so bilious as they do now.

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

## THE WEEK AT THE THEATRES.

Last week was, altogether, the dreariest that has been known in New-York theatricals since the season began. Its stupidity was hardly relieved by a single bright incident. It was not merely dull in itself, but it was made duller by the fluvial heavens which poured upon it a copious deluge of cold water. It was a washed-out week of hackneyed attractions and fog ends, and the memory of it is far from blessed.

There was a fresh incident at Haverly's Niblo's Garden Theatre, where, on the 12th inst., Mr. Haverly and the Kiralfy Brothers produced the spectacle of "The Black Venus." This proved to be a Barnum's Museum or Lent's Circus showpiece, of the old-fashioned tankard stripe, very long, very odiferous and very tiresome. It may be a fine affair in Paris, but it is not a play at all as represented here—it is the scenic illustration of a narrative of supposititious adventure. Its tale is of travel and "moving accident," and it was, doubtless, prompted by "Around the World in Eighty Days"—which is a much better piece. The story is that of a lady whose husband has disappeared in the heart of Africa, and who goes thither, with a caravan, to seek him, and finds that a sable queen has doomed him to death for refusing to reveal in her coffee-colored affections. The culmination is his rescue, by a self-sacrificing friend, and the termination is the rescue of that friend and the defeat of "the Black Venus," in a very ferocious "battle of the Amazons."

There are, ostensibly, five acts of this work, but the curtain is dropped over each of its prominent pictures. A panorama of the Nile, which is badly worked, forms a good background to the incidental travel through Egypt; and there is a good stage effect of fire, produced with a burning ship, and there is a particularly effective portrayal, made with rapidly glancing lights, of the optical terror of a sand storm in the desert. Indeed, the effects of light, wrought by the deft use of colored mediums, are the most attractive attributes of this show. To children, however, the caravan is the great incident. Half a dozen goats, a donkey, a horse or two, several camels, several zebras, and a scared cow constitute this pageant. For adults, of the male gender, the attraction is the frequent ballet—which is introduced into all the interstices of this loose-jointed composition, casting oblivion upon each dramatic hiatus, and soothing the tired senses with no end of capering leg. Upon this part of the subject it seems desirable to speak guardedly; yet the opinion may be ventured that, as to effect upon the mass of mankind, this magnetic object is as potent in black-and-tan as in cream-and-rose.

The scenery is mostly sumptuous, and the painting of it is admirable. The view of the temple of the Black Venus is as fine in color and adjuncts and grouping as anything of the sort that ever was shown on this glittering stage. Mlle. de Rosa leads the dancers, and she has lost no part of her enormous vitality of action. With a beautiful face, the dancer would quite fulfill the conditions of that old yarn about Margaret Fuller's idea of poetry and Emerson's idea of religion. As it is, she will not hit the philosophers. These would take away her soul to the lovely mystery of the Black Venus herself, which she hastens to say, is very far from being a question as to the color of her garters.

The strictly dramatic element is supplied by Miss Gabrielle du Saulh, Harry Dalton, W. H. Lytell, Emma Wilmet, D. R. Young and Harry Meredith, who are imperfectly heard, at infrequent times, to converse with much energy of manner and a strictly professional feeling. Mr. Meredith appears to enact *Metamora*—or possibly it is Garriek as *Oroskoque*; anyway, it is sublime. Another gentleman—we did not catch his name—entered into a cage with four large tigers, and discharged his pistol several times, and struck these splendid brutes with a rod upon their snouts, so that they should do him homage; and they did.

There was another fresh incident at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, where a very silly piece named "Salvati" was brought out—and acted five times—by Mr. Frederick Paulding in the chief part. Mr. Paulding is a new hand at the theatrical bellows, and one who appears to think that any man may become distinguished in art by persistently declaring himself to be so already. He presented *Salvati*, a squall, ill-determined individual, who—as nearly as we could determine, after two hours' inspection of his proceedings—had resolved to hold his tongue for eighteen years, because old Count de Medici had married a young wife, who made him take his gruel and go to bed with the family chaplain at 7 o'clock every night. A fearful effort, however, to understand why he should have taken this rash resolution, or whose aunt the lady really was, presently restored his vocal apparatus to its normal state, and caused him to howl like a stentor; whereupon they gave him a bath and some good clothes, and vice was punished. Mr. Paulding's personality seemed dramatic, and it is likely that in time he might play such a character as *Marcell* very well. His true vein is, probably, grotesque comedy. His tragic power is of the kind

and quality—though far less in degree—than Mr. S. Clarke was accustomed to exert, in *Rob Telford*. He did several good things, mostly in the wrong place, and, altogether, the exhibition was a sad one—for the cruelly exhilarating character of the play of "Salvati." Mr. Paulding ended his performance on Saturday, with *Shylock* and *Bartolomeo*—just for a little liver. These are great subjects, and it is not everybody who can grapple with them as Mr. Paulding does.

Nothing else of novelty occurred in the theatre. The week now opened, however, brings the new play of "The Creole," at the Union Square Theatre, the new play of "Bigamy" at the Standard, the new play of "Zanina" at Daly's Theatre, another revision of "Olivette" at the Park, Miss Abbott at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, Bishop as the *Widow Schott* at Haverly's Theatre, and a revival of "The School for Scandal" at Wallack's. Mr. Locke Richardson, moreover, at the Union League Club Theatre, will recite "The Merchant of Venice," and Mrs. George Vandenhoff will read at Chickering Hall.

## MAURICE DENGREMENT.

The wonderful young violinist who made his debut at Koster and Bial's Concert Garden in Twenty-third-st., on Tuesday, and who has been playing there through the week, has with each succeeding performance confirmed the high opinion that was first formed of his talents, and increased the wonder that such amazing technical perfection and such intellectual maturity should be found in a boy barely fourteen years old. His debut was not made under favorable circumstances. He arrived here unexpectedly and unannounced, and as the course of preliminary advertising of one sort or another which seems to be essential to the success of an artist in this country at the outset had been neglected in his case, very few people knew of the high reputation which he enjoys in Europe, and the warm praise which has been accorded to him by the highest authorities, so that his arrival was almost unnoticed. The time originally set for his debut had to be postponed on account of his illness (fancy a great artist catching cold at snow balling!) and the last grand interest which the first announcement of his coming created had almost died out when he appeared. But his playing quickly changed all that. He had not played five bars of De Beriot's Seventh Concerto before he had riveted the attention and captivated the interest of his audience, and before he had finished the first movement it was clear that here we had an artist who, from his intelligence, his musical feeling and his technical attainments, deserved to rank among the great masters of his instrument.

None of the great compositions for the viola, those which form the final test of an artist's powers, have been found among the collections in which he has as yet been heard, but those which he has played, and which number among them the De Beriot Concerto, Sarasate's transcription of one of the Chopin Nocturnes, Corelli's "La Folia," Leonora's "Sourvenir de Haydn," a romance by Beethoven, Vieuxtemps's "Fantaisie Caprice," and some other less important compositions, have been sufficient for the ample display of his powers, both mechanical and intellectual. That they are of the highest order there will be no question. His playing belongs to the modern French school, strong, dashing and full of brilliant execution. His bowing is free, his tone broad, full and rich, delightfully clear and remarkably true, and his command of the finger-board is extraordinary. His arpeggios are brilliant, his staccato notes pure, his runs clean and his embellishments are executed with the most perfect taste. He plays the most difficult harmonies with the exact purity of intonation, and rapid or involved passages are executed with faultless neatness and elegance. So far as technical attainments alone are concerned, he ranks already among the great violinists, and his intellectual qualities are to the full as remarkable. He has shown in his work a comprehensive grasp of his music, poetic feeling, tenderness, sentiment, a lively fancy and a decided individuality. His playing has not the strength and boldness which will come perhaps with greater maturity, for he is essentially young in his feeling, though by no means trivial or childish, and he is sometimes lacking in dash, which may perhaps come merely from the want of muscular force. His style is rather pensive and tender than brilliant and dazzling, and his tendency is rather toward expressiveness than passion. His graceful sentiment and refined expression have been very marked in much that he has done, especially in the Beethoven Romance and Vieuxtemps's "Fantaisie Caprice," and in the latter piece his originality and individuality were very strongly exemplified. It was a totally original rendering, taken much slower than we are accustomed to hearing it, and given with much more poetry and feeling, and with less of dash and brilliancy.

Young Dengrement, then, appeals to one not as an infant phenomenon, or a clever boy whose precocious talents we are called upon to admire and wonder at, while we are compelled to make all sorts of allowances for his inexperience and lack of finish. He is a thoroughly equipped, intelligent artist, who will undoubtedly improve as years go on and his talents ripen and he gains in experience, but who now is deservedly ranked among the great violinists of the day, and who has probably no equal in this country, except Wilhelm. Not the least charm that he exerts is his perfect boyishness, his freedom from affectation, and the entire enjoyment that he has in playing. He has a trim, slight figure, always clad in black velvet knickerbockers, and he wears about his neck one of the various orders that have been conferred upon him. He has a fine, interesting face, with clean-cut, delicate features, and a sweet, sensitive mouth and a broad, high forehead, from which is brushed back a great mass of wavy black hair. He has a thoroughly boyish look, and has nothing in his air to distinguish him from any other boy of his age save his bright, thoughtful and intelligent expression of his face. Certainly no boy ever gave less outward indication of extreme precocity.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

Miss Amy Sherwin will sing in the Thomas-Joseff concerts which begin in Boston on January 26th.

Mendelssohn's "Elijah" will be sung in Philadelphia on the 25th inst., Miss Beebe, Miss Winant, Mr. Toedt and Mr. Henschel taking the solo parts.

Dudley Buck's "Golden Legend," the prize composition at the last Cincinnati Festival, is to be sung by the Cecilia Society of Boston on the 24th inst.

A new concert hall for chamber music is to be built this spring by the directors of the New-York College of Music on Seventh-st., near Lexington-ave. The hall will be connected with the main building of the college.

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